Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 02484 081236Z

11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

OMB-01 /058 W
---------- 082044
O P 081207Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9265
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2484

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS CB
SUBJECT: THIRTY-NINTH DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 2404

1. SUMMARY. THIRD DIVISION FORCES ARE STILL PICKING UP ENEMY WEAPONS AFTER YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING WHICH COST THE KC OVER 300 KILLED. TWO YOUNG PRISONERS SAID THEY HAD NO TRAINING BEFORE BEING MARCHED INTO BATTLE. THE KC TOOK A COMPANY-SIZED POSITION AT PEAM REANG ISLAND ON THE MEKONG. FIGHTING CONTINUES MODERATE TO HEAVY IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, BUT THE ROAD TO THE 45TH BRIGADE IS STILL CUT. FOUR ROCKETS HIT POCHEN-TONG AND ONE LANDED ON THE NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF PHNOM PENH WITH NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. AIR AND ARMOR-SUPPORTED THIRD DIVSION TROOPERS KILLED OVER 300 KC IN HARD FIGHTING FEBRUARY 7. THE THIRD IS STILL POLICING UP A LARGE NUMBER OF ENEMY WEAPONS ON THE BATTLEFIELD. TWO 16-YEAR OLD PRISONERS
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 02484 081236Z

SAID THEY WERE MARCHED INTO BATTLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

CONSCRIPTED AROUND TAKEO AND TAUGHT TO FIRE THEIR AK-47'S WHILE ON THE WAY NORTH. FRIENDLY TROOOS LOST ONLY FOUR KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED.

3. MODERATE TO HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ALONG ROUTE 5. THE 7TH AND REINFORCEING ELEMENTS HAVE NO YET OPENED THE ROAD FROM THE DIVISION COMMAND POST TO THE ISLOATED 45TH BRIGADE AT PHNOM BASET.

4. AFTER HITTING FANK POSTS AT THE PEANG REAM ISLAND MEKONG CHOKE POINT WITH HARASSING FIRE, THE KC ATTACKED AND TOOK A COMPANY-SIZED POSITION. FANK REPORTS 10 KILLED OR MISSING AND 74 WOUNDED, ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN EVACUATED. FANK HAS TWO BATTALIONS ON THE ISLAND.

5. KAMPOT REPORTED HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND ITS PERIMTER AND IT APPEARS THAT TWO POSITIONS MAY HAVE WITHDRAWN TO THE CITY'S STRONG SECONDARY DEFENSIVE LINE.

6. FOUR ROCKETS HIT POCHENTONG AND ONE LANDED NORTH ON ROUTE 5 SIX KILOMERTS FROM THE CAPITAL WITH NO CASU-ALTIES REPORTED.
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